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### Montana high school students claim international science, engineering awards

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

June 5, 1998

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### **MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CLAIM INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AWARDS**

#### **MISSOULA --**

Three Montana high school students brought home awards from the 49th INTEL International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Fort Worth, Texas, last month.

The ISEF is the pinnacle event in a year-long process of local, regional, state and national science fairs.

Award winners are:

- Christie Lee Flechsenhar of **Cascade** High School. She claimed a second-place Grand Award in the gerontology category for her project, "Effects of Adrenergic & Cholinergic Agonists on IL-1A Induced Stromelysin Expression in a Rabbit Synoviocyte Cell Line." The AARP Andrus Foundation sponsored the \$1,500 award.
- Justin James Wood of North Toole County High School in **Sunburst**. He received a first-place Special Award of \$500 from the American Phytopathological Society and a fourth-place Grand Award of \$500 in INTEL's microbiology category for his project, "Lichens: Possible Source of New Antimicrobial Substances."
- Karen Elisabeth Hammen of Loyola Sacred Heart High School in **Missoula**. She won a third-place Special Award of \$200 from the American Association for Clinical Chemistry for her project, "Development of a Sandwich Immunoassay for a Protein Antigen."

- more -



Fourteen Montana students participated in the event May 10-16. Two individual competitors and one team were sponsored by the state's regional science fairs held earlier this year in Billings, Butte, Great Falls and Havre. The statewide Montana Science Fair, held on The University of Montana-Missoula campus April 6-7, also sponsored two individuals and a pair of team members. UM's computer science department administers the state fair, which is co-sponsored by the Missoula Exchange Club and the UM Foundation. The computer science department also has been instrumental in establishing the regional events.

The Montana winners' exhibits were among 957 exhibits from more than 28 countries. Their projects spanned 15 disciplinary categories and a Team Project category. About 600 awards were presented.

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